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September 5, 2001

The Honorable Spencer Abraham  
U.S. Secretary of Energy  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, D.C. 20585

SEP 10 2001

Dear Secretary Abraham:

The Nuclear-Free Great Lakes Campaign objects to the lack of reasonable notice and opportunity for hearing on the DOE's site recommendation of Yucca Mountain for a national high-level radioactive waste repository. Considering the colossal importance of this matter, it is disgraceful that such short notice was provided by DOE for public meetings on this issue—to say nothing of the matters of an incorrect address given for the meeting site just before a holiday weekend. Impossibly short notice for the average citizen to assimilate a 370 page long technical report is of equal significance.

As you are well aware, the issue of how to isolate tens of thousands of tons of the most radioactive material on Earth extends far beyond the actual site in Nevada—namely the transportation of these wastes along thousands of miles of rail and truck routes. Millions of people live near these highways and railways: do you really believe that three meetings in Nevada are sufficient opportunity for citizens to have input on a decision affecting their lives for decades to come?

Secretary Abraham, everyone agrees that geologic stability is an absolute must for any long-term geologic repository. If you agree that this is true, how can you possibly justify recommending a site for a permanent radioactive waste repository in a certified earthquake zone?

The circumstances of these hearings, in addition to the potential consequences of DOE's actions in establishing the Yucca Mountain repository in a seismically active region with unanticipated rates of groundwater flow, demand a rescheduling of the entire hearing process. The entire nation must finally become aware of what is about to transpire with our fifty-year legacy of the Nuclear Age.

The United States Constitution's Fifth Amendment requires that persons affected by such large-scale decisions have adequate and reasonable notice and a chance to be heard. The U.S. DOE's actions unmistakably smack of the actions of a railroad in service of the nuclear power industry; not even remotely close to meeting the most minimal constitutional protections of citizens' rights to due process in this case. It is imperative that these hearings to be rescheduled with adequate notice for all interested parties who are able can participate.

Sincerely,

Keith Gunter  
Nuclear-Free Great Lakes Campaign  
37232 Great Oaks Court  
Clinton Township, MI 48036

Cc: Lake Barrett, Acting Director/Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Mgmt.  
Carol Hanlon, Yucca Mt. Site Characterization Office (M/S) #025 U.S. DOE